

to account for the different races of this bird, which have been claimed for the Atlantic. The taxonomic status, migration, breeding, occurrence in summer near New York, and food are taken up separately and in detail; and the paper is not only a satisfactory review of the species but will be found useful for comparison in work on the less well known forms of petrels. It is illustrated with interesting and attractive photographs from life by the author and Mr. Howard H. Cleaves.—J. T. N.

**Cory's 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas.'**<sup>1</sup>—The great activity in the study of neotropical birds during the past few years has rendered all of our catalogues out of date, while the most recent one dealing with South American birds, that of Brabourne and Chubb, is disappointing to the general student from the fact that the Central American species are necessarily omitted. A work therefore, such as Mr. Cory has begun, which is both up to date and at the same time covers the entire New World, is particularly welcome at this time. Under each species and subspecies are given the original reference with the type locality and one or more additional references to important papers, including always the first reference to the name as adopted in the list. Then follows a brief statement of the range, and the number of specimens contained in the Field Museum Collection, with the localities which they represent. In the case of species not described in the 'British Museum Catalogue' or in Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' a brief description is given in a footnote. As to the species recognized, the author is guided by the two works above mentioned and by such monographic papers as have appeared subsequently. Recently described forms not considered in such works are admitted pending future judgment. This plan seems to us an admirable one as it is not biased by the views of one individual which in such a work must needs be of very unequal value.

The classification follows that of Bowdler Sharpe's 'Hand List of Birds' and the present part covers the families from the Owls to the Hummingbirds inclusive. This plan, of beginning the work with 'Part II' as the author explains, has been adopted with the idea of leaving to the last the families still to be treated by Ridgway in this 'Birds of North and Middle America' since the immediate treatment of these groups would have necessitated a very large number of footnote descriptions which can be avoided when reference to the above work is possible.

As in most works of this nature the author has found it necessary to propose a certain number of new forms. Of these we note the following: *Speotyto cunicularia minor* (p. 40); Boa Vista, Amazonia; *Aratinga cactorum perpallida* (p. 59), Ceara, Brazil; *Eupsittula pertinax margaritensis* (p. 63), Margarita Island; *Amazona amazonica tobagensis* (p. 83), Tobago;

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<sup>1</sup> A Catalogue of Birds of the Americas. By Charles B. Cory. Part II, No. 1. Field Museum of Natural History, Publication 197. Zoölogical Series, Vol. XIII. Chicago, U. S. A., March, 1918. Svo, pp. 1-315.

*Urospatha martii olivacea* (p. 108), Moyobamba, Peru; *Nephæctes niger guadeloupensis* (p. 143); Guadeloupe Island; *Lepidopyga goudoti zulixæ* (p. 182), Rio Aurare, W. Venezuela; *Colibri iolatus brevipennis* (p. 210), Caracas, Venezuela.

While we have not had an opportunity to test out the accuracy of the references they appear to have been carefully compiled and we have little doubt but that Mr. Cory's 'Catalogue' will prove to be an indispensable reference work to all who study neotropical bird-life. It is well printed, the type well selected and the arrangement clear and easily understood. Let us hope that nothing may hinder the appearance of the succeeding parts upon which Mr. Cory is now engaged.—W. S.

**McAtee's 'Sketch of the Natural History of the District of Columbia.'**<sup>1</sup>—There is no more important point in connection with the study of local natural history than for the student to have a clear idea of the relation of the fauna and flora to the environment and to appreciate just where his immediate locality stands in the classification of the larger zoögeographic or phytogeographic areas as well as to know where to find the local literature. We often find admirable discussions of the faunal relations of the western states or of remote foreign countries, but concise accounts of the general features controlling the distribution of plants and animals in the neighborhood of the larger centers of population in the eastern states, are much harder to obtain. Such a work, therefore, as Mr. McAtee has conceived and carried to completion deserves the highest commendation, and should stimulate the preparation of similar sketches for other centers of natural history study.

The first half of the "sketch" consists of an historical account of natural history study in the vicinity of Washington with local bibliographies for the botany, insects, other invertebrates, fishes, reptiles and batrachians, birds, mammals and early history of man. The second part discusses the distribution of life in the region under the following heads: 'The Piedmont Plateau and Coastal Plain as Faunal and Floral Provinces'; 'Magnolia Bogs near Washington, D. C., and their Relations to the Pine Barrens'; 'Other Types of Collecting Grounds in the District of Columbia Region'; and 'The Upper Potomac Region.' Following this is the index to the accompanying map with a bibliography of maps, historical works, etc., from which the locality names were compiled. The bird portion consists of an interesting historical sketch and a list of fifteen papers.

This publication we notice is the first of a new series — 'Bulletins' — of the Biological Society which, if the present issue is a sample of what is to come, will be well worth while.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> A Sketch of the Natural History of the District of Columbia together with an Indexed Edition of the U. S. Geological Survey's 1917 Map of Washington and Vicinity. By W. L. McAtee. Bull. Biological Society, Wash., No. 1. May, 1918. pp. 1-142 with map. (in folder). Price \$2.00, postpaid \$2.15.